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# INSIDE: DC DRILL SERGEANT MAKES HISTORY

## CAPITAL



## FLASH

D.C. National Guard



*In Memoriam: SFC Robin L. Towns, Sr.*

# 2007 YEAR N REVIEW

COVERING THE SOLDIERS THAT PROTECT & SERVE





To make a Newsflash submission, call the Public Affairs Team at 202-685-9809, or email at [dcngpad@dc.ngb.army.mil](mailto:dcngpad@dc.ngb.army.mil).

2001 East Capitol Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Operation Jump Start

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Team

The 74th Troop Command held rifle qualifications at Quantico Marine Corps Base March 24-25 in support of Operation Jump Start (OJS). Support for OJS began April 30-May 19 and included 120 Soldiers, who provided protection at observation and listening points in New Mexico.



Photo by Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson

Col. Cecilia Flores, Commander, 74th Troop Command, said OJS provided Soldiers “an opportunity to protect our nation with its homeland defense mission.” Service members were given the chance to go to a US border and prevent individuals from crossing illegally. OJS is a border patrol mission implemented in New Mexico and supported by National Guardsmen and law enforcement agencies

Chaplains Exchange in Jamaica

Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington  
DC Public Affairs Detachment

Lt. Col. James Driscoll, state chaplain, and Capt. Gladys Lainer, command chaplain, traveled to Jamaica for the chaplain’s exchange program May 24-28. The relationship between the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) and the Jamaican Defense Force has existed for several years, strengthening the good will between the two organizations.

Driscoll gave the sermon and Lainer followed with a reading. According to Driscoll, some of the goals



Photo by Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington

of the program were “to make a connection with the chaplains [in Jamaica]...and with the Jamaican people spiritually.” Driscoll and Lainer be-

lieve the exchange was beneficial and look forward to future exchanges.

A Closed Chapter...



Photo by Sgt. Nancy D. Snow

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

The District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) ceremoniously recognized all its Soldiers and airmen who retired in 2007 on the drill floor Dec. 2. The 53 retirees served 20 plus years in the military.

Among the retirees, 19 were presented awards at the ceremony. The awards include the federal award; Meritorious Service Medal, the state award; DCNG Meritorious Service Medal, the Minuteman Statue, the certificate of retirement, and the presentation of the America Flag.

It’s All About Celebration at the DCNG



Photo by Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers, airmen and their families kicked off the holiday season Dec. 2 at the DC Armory at the District of Columbia National Guard’s (DCNG) annual holiday gala. The Family Readiness Office organized the event. Service members and their

families enjoyed face painting and a moon bounce, as Santa Claus and his elves handed out gifts to the little ones. The atmosphere was festive and upbeat. Traditional holiday foods were provided by the DCNG food service specialists.



Photo by Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington

Cover Photo: Soldiers of 74th Troop Command received civil disturbance training at Fort Meade, MD, during October’s drill.



A Time to Give Thanks

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) members gathered Dec. 2 for the Annual Prayer Breakfast held on the drill floor. During the program each chaplain spoke encouraging words. Those in attendance joined in festive holiday carols while music was provided by Soldiers of the 257th Army Band. Breakfast was served shortly after the program.



Photo by Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson

DoD Announces Certification of WMD-CST for the District of Columbia

DoD Announcement

The Department of Defense (DoD) notified Congress last year that the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) of the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) is now certified. DoD officials said the 33rd WMD-CST is fully ready to assist

civil authorities in responding to a domestic weapon of mass destruction incident, and possesses the requisite skills, training, and equipment to perform all mission requirements. The 33rd WMD-CST became the 49th team to gain certification by DoD. Congress authorized a total of 55 WMD-CSTs, which is enough to field at least one team in every state, territory and the District of Columbia.



Photo by Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington

Awards & Decorations Ceremony

Sgt. Kevin Harris  
DC Public Affairs Detachment

The annual awards and decorations ceremony held Dec. 2 at the DC Armory honored the outstanding achievements of Army and Air Force personnel. Hundreds of service members and their families were in attendance as guest speaker Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper (Ret.), president of the National Guard Association of the United States, paid

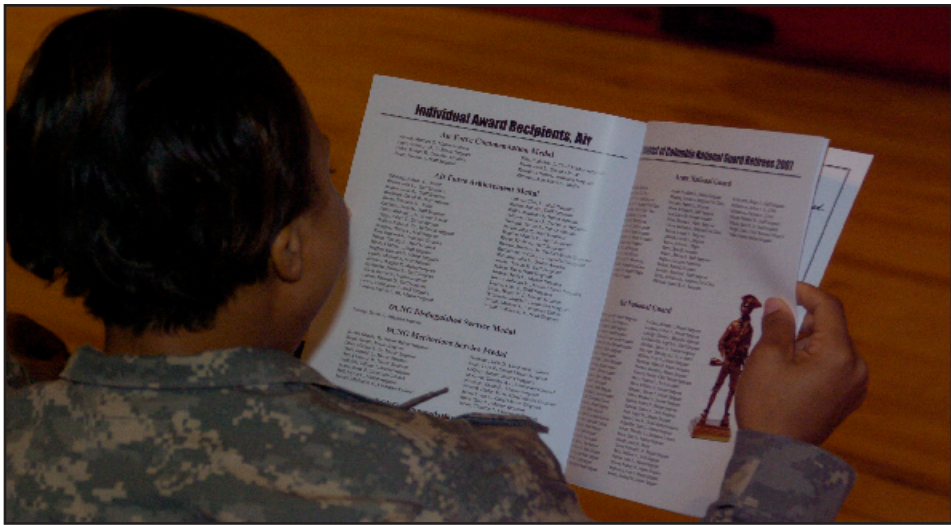


Photo by Spc. Robert T. Albrecht

tribute to the Guard's finest. A few of the awards included Soldier of the Year, Civilian of the Year and the Family Readiness of the Year.

275th Deploy for OIF

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Team

DC Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton attended the 275th Military Police Company's Iraqi deployment ceremony May 30 at the DC Armory.

The Army Celebrated Its 232nd Birthday and the DC Guard Was There!

Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington  
DC Public Affairs Detachment

The United States Army hosted its official birthday ball June 16 at the Hilton Hotel in Washington DC, celebrating 232 years of service to America. The District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) was well represented at the gala. Members of the 33rd Civil Support Team, 257th Army Band, 104th Maintenance Company, 715th Public Af-

140th Inactivation

Spc. Robert T. Albrecht  
DC Public Affairs Detachment

The 140th Transportation Company was ceremoniously inactivated on Aug. 12 in the company of service members, retirees and guests. The ceremony marked the closure of this unit's service to the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG). The role of the unit transitioned from the original 380th Infantry unit, to the 380th Service and Supply Company, to the 1-380th Quartermaster Company, and finally to the 140th Transportation Company. The 140th Transportation Company has provided support to local and federal government agencies. Elements of the unit had been deployed in support of 9/11, presi-

Prior to serving in Iraq, 130 Soldiers deployed to Camp Shelby, MS for training. The troops deployed to support a vital mission in the war on terrorism. During the ceremony, family and friends said their prayers and farewells as the brave Soldiers prepared to leave.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Earle B. Wilson (Ret.)

fairs Detachment, and 74th Troop Command put their best foot forward to ensure that their coordination and cooperation with other Army agencies was seamless. Pvt. Tiffany Jones, 104th Maintenance Company, was selected by the Lt. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, deputy chief G-1 of United States Army, to present the official toast. This honor is traditionally made by the youngest Soldier attending the event. "[It] wasn't too bad, a lot easier than what I thought it



Photo by Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington

would be . . . Put your fears behind you, do what it takes." said Jones.



Photo by Spc. Robert T. Albrecht

dential inaugurations, presidential funeral services, Hurricane Katrina, civil disturbances, and the War on Terror. First Lt. Tanya Lawrence-Riggins, commander at the time of the inactivation said she was "...truly honored and privileged to be the last commander." She then present-

ed a coin to all of the Soldiers of the company for outstanding service. Maj. Gen. David F. Wherley, Commanding General, DCNG, added that he was extremely proud of the 140th and that the unit's closure was due to a lack of Soldiers filling ranks, not the needs of the District.



CID Change Of Command

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Team

The 121st Military Police Detachment, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), received a new commander during a change of command ceremony held Aug. 12. Chief Warrant Officer Milford R. Echols received the flag from Brig. Gen. Barbaranette Bolden,

Assistant Adjutant General, signifying his new responsibility of leading a detachment that ensures all Soldiers are within safe company. Outgoing commander Chief Warrant Officer James M. Boone thanked the Soldiers and command group for embracing him during his tenure. Boone wished the new commander success in leadership.



Photo by Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson

Embedded Training Team Departure Ceremony

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Team

A departure ceremony was conducted Sept. 15 for the Embedded Training Team (ETT) deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Col. Gregory Castello, team chief, and Lt. Col. Russell Bittle, assistant team chief, led the team into Afghanistan to protect and serve. The ETT provides support to coalition forces to enhance the ability of Afghan National Forces.



Photo by Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson

The ETT consists of seven commissioned and non-commissioned

officer teams in the areas of intelligence, operations, communications, transportation, medical, field artillery, and infantry.

231st Combat Communications Squadron Inactivates

Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington  
DC Public Affairs Team

The 231st Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, retired its colors Nov. 4 after 55 years of service. CBCS began as the 8205th Air Base Squadron located at Camp Simms in the District of Columbia Feb. 1, 1952. Its mission was to receive, maintain and store equipment and train personnel. Over the course of its history, CBCS underwent many changes.

In 1981, for example, the squadron accomplished its first overseas deployment in participation of Exercise Flintlock 81 in England. From 1985 to 1993 it conducted the Air National Guard's first radar approach operations at Martinsburg, WV. At the end of the Cold War the squadron transitioned to a mobile combat force, ready to deploy in support of the national interest. During the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, CBCS implemented static ground communication systems to support the 113th Wing's air patrol mission over the Capital Region.



Photo by Sgt. Nancy D. Snow

CBCS has also deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

Memorial Service for Fallen Comrade

Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington  
DC Public Affairs Detachment

A memorial service was held for Sgt. First Class Robin L. Towns Sr. Nov. 4 at the DC Armory, followed by a funeral service Nov. 6 at The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square, Capital Heights, MD and a burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Towns, 52, a Portsmouth, VA native, died Oct. 24 in Bayji, Iraq from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee during combat operations. He joined the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) in April 2006 and was assigned to the 275th Military Police Company, 372nd Military Police Battalion. As a civilian, Towns worked as a corrections officer for the Prince



Photo by Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington

George's County government. Towns had been in Iraq only nine days and was the second member of the DCNG to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Combat Action Badge, the Purple Heart,

and has received many achievement medals and ribbons. Towns was posthumously promoted to sergeant first class for service to his country. Those who spoke at the Nov. 4 memorial service paid tribute to Towns for a job well done.

547th Changes Command

Spc. Thaddeus G. Harrington  
DC Public Affairs Detachment

1st Lt. Hyo J. Cho became the Commander of the 547th Transportation Company during a change of command ceremony at the DC Armory Dec. 1. Outgoing Commander, Capt. Sandra Y. Young was reassigned as personnel officer (S-1) for the 74th Troop Command. Cho, originally from Seoul,

South Korea, began her enlisted military career in 1999 as an administrative specialist for the Joint Force Headquarters. In 2001 she joined 276th Military Police Company and mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle 2003-2004. Cho was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps by the District of Columbia Army National Guard (DCARNG) in 2004. Subsequently, she was appointed a platoon leader in the 547th



DA Photo

Transportation Company while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cho has served in many leadership positions and brings valuable knowledge to her company.

Drill Sergeant Makes History

Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Rayshawn Robinson said she enjoys working with new was the first person from the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) responsible for preparing the re-

to attend the active duty component cruits for Army Basic Training. of the Drill Sergeant course. "Being the only National Guard Soldier put me in a unique position, but I enjoyed the experience," said Robinson. "It was definitely a challenge." Robinson, a 2007 graduate, said she enjoys working with new the enlisted Soldiers. Robinson is responsible for preparing the re-



Photo by Sgt. Khalia D. Jackson